

To the Connecticut State Legislature:

Testimony from CT resident, Deborah L Brody, on Senate Bill 22

Dear Co-Chairs Fonfara and Scanlon, Vice-Chairs Miller, Moore, Kavros-Degraw, and Meskers, Ranking Members Martin and Cheeseman, and all members of the Finance, Revenue, and Bonding Committee:

My name is Deborah L Brody. I grew up in Newtown, CT, and am currently a resident of Heritage Village in Southbury, CT. I am a Registered Nurse who has worked at North Hawaii Community Hospital, at Yale New Haven Hospital, in pediatric home care, and at Middlesex Hospital. I am a volunteer community health educator for the Western CT Area Agency on Aging, and a senior living on a fixed income.

I strongly support reducing the sales and use taxes and the meals tax. These are REGRESSIVE taxes that fall most heavily on working people and on people of limited means like myself. Southbury, and Heritage Village, are considered “comfortable” communities. But how many of my neighbors are weighing daily purchases of needed goods against how much money they have to last the month! None of us expected this to be our lot. But here we are.

The purpose of gathering state revenues must be to support and improve the lives of all Connecticut residents by supporting and providing essential services like health care, sanitation, education, affordable housing, robust and reliable public transportation, and community-based safeguards to our watersheds, our farmlands, our natural world, and most of all our climate.

Justice demands that the funds for this vital work be provided by each according to their ability to contribute.

Corporations that profit from the labor, resources, infrastructure, and consumer purchases of Connecticut’s people must give back to the source of their wealth by paying a tax based on the income they derive from our state. Measures must be taken to ensure that such a tax is paid by the corporation, and not simply passed on to the consumer, nor clawed out of the wages, health care, or pensions of their employees.

Likewise, for those in our state whose wealth and ease comes, not from the sweat of their brow, but from owning property — be it real estate or shares in industries in which others toil — should pay a tax based on the gain they receive from such ownership.

Taxation that gouges working people and families while insulating and favoring the owners of our homes, our debts, our health care, and our livelihoods is a material and spiritual crime that undermines the foundations of our society.

I support the reduction of sales, use, and meals taxes as ONE HALF of a just solution. The other half MUST BE to recover that revenue by requiring corporations and the owning class to pay their fair share.

Sincerely,

Deborah L Brody

218-B Heritage Village
Southbury, CT 06488

(Voter in CT Senate District 32, CT House District 69)